

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claim 13 is respectfully acknowledged.

New claim 20 has been added to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 13 rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its parent claims 10 and intervening claim 11. In addition, new claim 21 has been added to recite the subject matter of claim 14 depending from new claim 20.

No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that new claims 20 and claim 21 are now in condition for immediate allowance.

And since new claims 20 and 21 are clearly in condition for immediate allowance, it is respectfully requested that they be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 10, 11 and 13 have been amended to recite the feature of the present invention formerly recited in (now canceled)

claim 16 whereby the receiver comprises a terminal of another party.

More specifically, claim 10, for example, has been amended to clarify that an address of terminal of another party is received and inputted and that the converted and stored electronic image data is transmitted to the address of the terminal of the other party by a transmitting device through the communication system. And similarly claims 11 and 13 have been amended to recite that the electronic image data and additional information are transmitted to the terminal of the other party.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 10, 11 and 13 are clarifying in nature only, and merely replace the term "receiver" with terminal of the other party as formerly recited in (now canceled) claim 16 which has already been considered by the Examiner.

Claim 18, moreover, has been amended only to make a minor grammatical correction.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the claims and that no new issues have been raised which require further consideration on the merits and/or a new search.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 10-12, 14-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by newly cited USP 5,799,219 ("Moghadam et al") and/or previously cited USP 5,760,917 ("Sheridan"), and claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Moghadam et al, taken singly or in combination with previously cited USP 6,017,157 ("Garfinkle et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claim 10, the receiver to which the converted electronic image data is transmitted is the terminal of another party. That is, as described on page 13 lines 5-6 of the specification of the present application, the receiver is the terminal of an acquaintance, friend or relative.

It is respectfully submitted that the method of the claimed present invention achieves a simplified, flexible, easy-to-use system which minimizes inconvenience to the customer. For example, when another party is photographed by a customer, the other party may want to obtain a print on which the image of the other party is reproduced. As mentioned on page 2, lines 12-16 of the specification of the present application, conventionally this requires the other party to ask the customer to make the reprint, which may be troublesome.

According to the method of the claimed present invention, however, when the customer asks at a shop to convert the image on the recording medium into electronic image data, the customer also provides an address of a terminal of another party to which electronic image data are to be transmitted in response to the request via a communication system. The image of the recording medium provided by the customer is converted into electronic image data and stored in a memory, and then the electronic image data is transmitted to the address of the terminal of the other party by a transmitting device through the communication system, as recited in amended claim 10.

Subsequently, if the other party desires a reprint, the other party can easily make such a request to the shop based on the received electronic image data without disturbing the original customer, as described in the specification at page 19, line 23 to page 20 line 2.

Therefore, with the method of the claimed present invention, even if the customer does not have a device to convert an image into electronic image data and a transmitting device capable of transmitting the electronic image data to another party, the customer can send electronic image data to the other party through the shop at low cost without any special devices, and the other party is also enabled to easily request reprints of the electronic image data without disturbing the original customer.

Moghadam et al discloses a film processing system wherein customer information is read from magnetic tracks of a film. (See column 4 lines, 33-46). In addition, Moghadam et al discloses in Fig. 3 a display 34 that shows personal data 31 of the customer. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Moghadam et al does not at all disclose, teach or even remotely suggest transmitting electric image data to another party, as according to the present invention as recited in amended claim 10.

Sheridan discloses a distribution system and method in which a first terminal remote from a hub station selects a granted access right in association with an electronic address of a third party and transmits the granted access right to the hub station, wherein the hub station transmits an electric address of the hub station to the third party, wherein a second terminal (of the third party) transmits an access identification to the hub station, and wherein the hub station then allows the second terminal to access an image set. (See, for example, column 2, lines 20-45.) It is respectfully submitted, however, that Sheridan teaches nothing at all relating to the features of the claimed present invention whereby a request for an electronic image data transmitting service is received from a customer at a shop together with a recording medium having an image and an address of a terminal of another party to which electronic image

data are to be transmitted in response to the request for the electronic image data transmitting service. In this connection, it is respectfully pointed out that in the hub station of Sheridan, it is necessary for all customers to use a communication device to access the hub station and to transmit necessary information, whereas the method of the claimed present invention is directed to enabling a customer who does not have a communication device to easily electronic image data to another party through the shop.

As pointed out by the Examiner, Fig. 4 of Sheridan appears to teach dropping off a recording medium at a shop. However, as described in column 9, line 31 to column 10 line 30 of Sheridan, this reference merely teaches an ordinal print order system in which a film is processed so as to obtain digital image data at a shop and then digital image data are stored with an identification associated with the film. In fact, Sheridan discloses that the first terminal transmits the address of another party to the hub station, and in fact this references does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the claimed present invention whereby a request together with an address of a terminal of another party is received at a shop.

Garfinkle et al, moreover, has now merely been cited for the disclosure of deleting images on a server after a predetermined time period has elapsed.

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Response to Final Office Action

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest the distinguishing features and advantageous effects of the method of the claimed present invention, and that amended claim 10 and each of claims 11-15 and 17-19 depending therefrom patentably distinguish over the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101
DH:iv
encs.